

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2493

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016

Aircraft Carrier

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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to retire the world's oldest running aircraft carrier INS Viraat, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Union Government has asked all the nine maritime States for a workable proposal to convert INS Viraat into a docked museum, if so, the response thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is building an indigenous aircraft carrier to replace it, if so, the time by which it will be commissioned; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government for timely commissioning of the aircraft carrier with a view to further strengthen the security in coastal areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): INS Viraat is planned to be decommissioned by end of 2016. All coastal State Governments have been requested to convey their firm commitment for preserving Aircraft Carrier INS Viraat and converting into

"Aircraft Carrier Museum" post decommissioning. Some of these States have responded and requested for further information / clarification.

(c) Yes, Madam. India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) is targeted to be delivered by December 18.

(d) The Government has set up monitoring mechanisms at various levels to monitor the progress of work of IAC-1 to meet the targeted delivery. Additionally, an Expert Committee was constituted in May 2015, to monitor the progress of the project.
